

PO Box 130 Electric City, Washington 99123 Phone (509) 633-1510 website: electriccity.us

April 9, 2020

RE: Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and COVID-19

To all residents of Electric City:

On March 24, 2020, the Governor issued <u>Proclamation 20-28 (Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act)</u> to among other things, <u>temporarily</u> prohibit in-person public attendance at meetings that are subject to the OPMA. **This proclamation is in effect from March 24, 2020 through midnight April 23, 2020, unless extended beyond that date.**

According to the Governor's Proclamation 20-05, the City is prohibited from conducting in-person council meetings and must, instead, provide for attendance through telephonic or electronic access. In addition, the City is restricted from acting on any matter that is not "necessary and routine" or necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Accordingly, because of the outbreak of COVID-19 and in order to comply with social distancing and reducing person-to-person virus transmission, all public comment at our regular or special council meetings will be suspended. Staff and other reports will be submitted in writing to the council and be included as part of the consent agenda. Public comment may also be submitted in writing for consideration by the Council. Public Hearings and Workshops will not be scheduled unless "necessary" to City operations and, if scheduled, will be conducted remotely.

The proposed agenda will be posted on the City's website and you will be able to remotely listen to the meetings by phone or computer access. Those instructions will be available on the website with the agenda.

I will continue to update you as things change.

Sincerely,

Mayor Diane Kohout